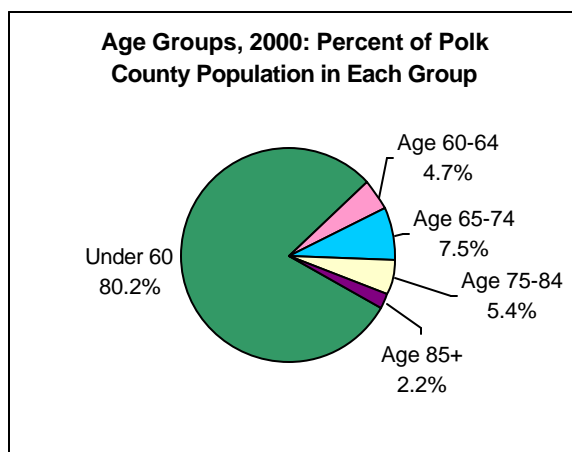

Polk County's Older Population

A summary of data from the U.S. Census, 2000

Population:

The proportion of people age 65 and older in Polk County is higher than that of the state as a whole (15.1% versus 13.1%). The rate of growth in the older population since 1990 has been faster in this county than in the state as a whole (12.6% versus 7.9%). In all, 6,247 people in this county are age 65 or older, and 913 of these are age 85 or older. Polk County's average (or median) age is 38.7 years, compared to a statewide median of 36.0 years.

Polk County: Population and Change Since 1990						
	2000 Census		1990 Census		Change: 1990-2000	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% Change
Total, All Ages	41,319		34,773		6,546	18.8%
Persons 60 and over	8,174	19.8%	7,122	20.5%	1,052	14.8%
Persons 65 and over	6,247	15.1%	5,549	16.0%	698	12.6%
Persons 85 and over	913	2.2%	687	2.0%	226	32.9%



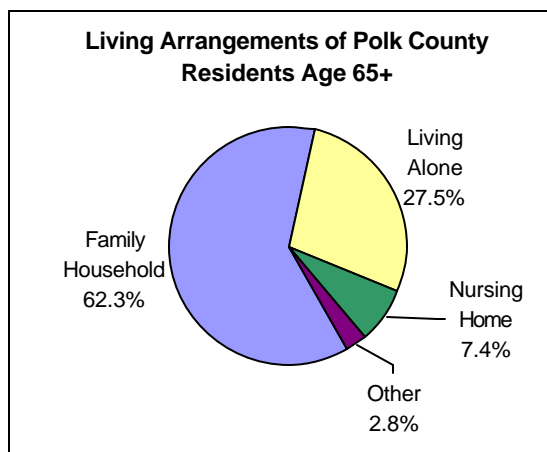
Race:

A large majority (99.4%) of Polk County's 65 and over population is white. On average, the county's minority groups are younger than whites. Polk County African Americans have a median age of 19.5 years, and the median age of Hispanics/Latinos here is 19.6 years. Whites, in contrast, average 39.0 years.

Living Arrangements:

Of the 16,254 households in Polk County, 4,175 include at least one person age 65 or older (25.7% of all households). A total of 3,938 housing units in the county have a "household head" aged 65 or older, and 77.3% of these are owner occupied (the rest are rented).

A majority (62.3%) of the older population lives in "family households" containing at least two people related by blood or marriage, but another 27.5% of people 65 or older live alone. Of those older people in family households, 2.5% are living in the home of one of their children. A total of 461 people age 65 and older live in Polk County nursing homes (7.4% of all those in this age group). A very small number of the county's older residents live in nonfamily households or in other institutions.



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1.

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